

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An implantable cardiac lead comprising:

- a) an elongated lead body having opposed proximal and distal end portions and having at least one lumen extending therethrough;
- 5 b) an electrode assembly operatively associated with the distal end portion of the lead body for stimulating cardiac tissue;
- c) a connector assembly operatively associated with the proximal end portion of the lead body for engaging a corresponding receptacle of a pulse generating device, the connector assembly having an engagement stem depending therefrom; and
- 10 d) a ported connector fitting having a body with an engagement bore for receiving the engagement stem of the connector assembly, and having at least one passageway extending therethrough, in communication with the engagement bore, for delivering fluid into the at least one lumen of the lead body through the engagement stem of the connector assembly.

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2. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, wherein the ported connector fitting has a bifurcated body that includes a first portion having a first passageway extending therethrough, in communication with the engagement bore, for communicating with a first lumen of the lead body, and a second portion having a second passageway extending therethrough, in communication with the engagement bore, for communicating with a second lumen of the lead body.

3. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, wherein the engagement stem of the connector assembly and the engagement bore of the ported connector fitting are threaded to facilitate detachable engagement of the ported connector fitting and the connector assembly.

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4. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, wherein the at least one passageway formed in the ported connector fitting has a funnel-shaped inlet region.

5. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, wherein the at least one lumen formed in the lead body has an outlet port at the distal end of the lead body.

6. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, wherein the at least one lumen formed in the lead body has an outlet port at a location spaced from the distal end of the lead body.

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7. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, wherein the electrode assembly is bipolar and includes a distal tip electrode and a proximal ring electrode.

8. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a helical conductor coil extending through the lead body for connecting the electrode assembly with the connector assembly.

9. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a helical fixation screw operatively associated with the distal end of the lead body for actively securing the lead to cardiac tissue.

5 10. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 1, further comprising a plurality of flexible tines provided at the distal end of the lead body for passively securing the lead to cardiac tissue.

11. An implantable cardiac lead comprising:

10 a) an elongated lead body having opposed proximal and distal end portions, the lead body having a fluid delivery lumen extending therethrough;

b) an electrode assembly operatively associated with the distal end portion of the lead body for stimulating cardiac tissue;

c) a connector assembly operatively associated with the proximal end portion of the lead body for engaging a corresponding receptacle of a pulse generating device, the connector assembly having a threaded engagement stem depending therefrom; and

15 d) a ported connector fitting having a body with a threaded engagement bore for receiving the threaded engagement stem of the connector assembly, and having a passageway extending therethrough, in communication with the engagement bore, for delivering fluid into the fluid delivery lumen of the lead body through the engagement stem of the connector assembly.

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12. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 11, wherein the passageway formed in the ported connector fitting has a funnel-shaped inlet region.

5 13. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 11, wherein the at least one lumen formed in the lead body has an outlet port at the distal end of the lead body.

10 14. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 11, wherein the at least one lumen formed in the lead body has an outlet port at a location spaced from the distal end of the lead body.

15 15. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 11, wherein the electrode assembly is bipolar and includes a distal tip electrode and a proximal ring electrode.

16. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 11, further comprising a helical conductor coil extending through the lead body for connecting the electrode assembly with the connector assembly.

20 17. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 11, further comprising a helical fixation screw operatively associated with the distal end of the lead body for actively securing the lead to cardiac tissue.

18. An implantable cardiac lead as recited in Claim 11, further comprising a plurality of flexible tines provided at the distal end of the lead body for passively securing the lead to cardiac tissue.

5 19. A kit comprising:

a) an implantable cardiac pacing lead having an elongated lead body with a fluid delivery lumen extending therethrough, and including a connector assembly operatively associated with a proximal end portion of the lead body, the connector assembly having a threaded engagement stem depending therefrom;

10 b) at least one ported connector fitting having a body with a threaded engagement bore for receiving the threaded engagement stem of the connector assembly, the body of the fitting having a passageway extending therethrough for communicating with the fluid delivery lumen of the lead body; and

15 c) an enclosure for housing the cardiac lead and at least one ported connector fitting.

20. A kit as recited in Claim 19, wherein a guidewire lumen extends through the lead body, and the kit further comprises at least one multi-ported connector fitting having a bifurcated body with a threaded engagement bore for receiving the threaded engagement stem of the connector assembly, wherein the bifurcated body has a first passageway extending therethrough for communicating with the fluid delivery lumen of the lead body, and a second passageway extending therethrough for communicating with the guidewire lumen of the lead body.

10 21. A kit as recited in Claim 20, further comprising an elongated guidewire for guiding the cardiac pacing lead to the implantation site.

22. A kit as recited in Claim 20, wherein the cardiac pacing lead has a helical fixation screw operatively associated with the distal end thereof and the kit further includes
15 a screwdriver tipped stylet for manipulating the helical screw.